



IAP7 Rec'd USPTO 23 FEB 2006

PCT OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PCT Application of: OTSUKA PHARMACEUTICAL CO., INC.  
Inventors: Hiroshi OKAZAKI  
Int'l Appln. No.: PCT/IB2004/02670  
Int'l Filing Date: July 19, 2004  
Docket No: F178622  
For: OLIGODENDROCYTE PRECURSOR CELLS AND  
METHODS OF OBTAINING AND CULTURING THE SAME

**RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

MAIL STOP PCT  
Attn: IPEA/US  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The International Search Report and Written Opinion issued in the above-identified application on December 23, 2005. As this response is being filed within the two month period for reply, this Response is timely.

In the Written Opinion, the Examiner cited to Kessaris et al. (*Development* 131(6):1289-1298). While the Examiner correctly noted on the International Search Report that Kessaris et al. was published in 2004, the Examiner indicates in the Written Opinion that Kessaris et al. was published in 2003.

Because Kessaris et al. was indeed published in 2004, it was published after the July 18, 2003 priority date of the instant application, i.e., the filing date of U.S. provisional application no. 60/487,933. As the provisional application fully supports each of the claims of the international application, and Kessaris et al. was published after the priority date,

Kessariss et al. may not serve as legally-effective prior art against the claims of the international application.

Respectfully submitted,



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